(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are considering a proposal to conduct an inquiry into the functioning of O.N.G.C. and squandering of funds thereby;

(d) whether un-productive wells involving huge losses are likely to be closed; and

(e) what is the number of wells which are running in losses but are being kept open for non-commercial reasons by ONGC?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) The news item has come to Government's notice.

(c) No such decision has been taken.

(d) and (e) ONGC has reported that all their operating wells are commercially viable.

Gas linkage to Gandhar and Pipavav Power Project

585. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the clearance of 615 MW electricity generation Gandhar and Pipavav power projects of Gujarat has been held up due to non-confirmation of Gas Linkage;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the non-confirmation of gas linkage;

(c) what is the per annum requirement of gas for these projects; and

(d) whether Government have ascertained the economic feasibility of developing the Tapti Offsore fields?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (d) The availability of gas for Gujarat Government's Gandhar Power Project is being reviewed.

A decision had been taken in principle to allocate gas for the Pipavav Power Plant. However, this is dependent on the economic feasibility of developing the Tapti Offshore fields of ONGC.

Gas reserves in Eastern States

586. SHRI G. G. SWELL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the eastern region of our sub-Continent, including our eastern states has vast reserves of gas;

(b) whether the International Finance Corporation has offered to finance the gas pipeline from Bangladesh to West Bengal;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Bangladesh has shown interest in supplying gas to India;

(d) whether Government have examined the feasibility of carrying gas from Tripura to India through the Bangladesh-West Bengal pipeline; and

(e) whether Government are considering the offer of the International Finance Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Reserves of gas have been found in the eastern part of the country.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir:

(d) No decision has been taken.

(e) Does not arise in view of (b) above.